



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release To PM's, SEPTEMBER 23, 1958

HUNTERS URGED TO "LOOK HARDER" BEFORE SHOOTING DUCKS

If duck hunters "look a little harder and shoot a little slower" more canvasbacks and redheads will be spared for next year's nesting, and crippling losses of all species of ducks will be considerably reduced, Ross Leffler, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife, said today.

Assistant Secretary Leffler added that while this year's restrictions on harvesting of these species--not more than two in the aggregate in the daily bag or more than four in the aggregate in possession in the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways--will put an extra responsibility on the individual hunter it is not the first time that such responsibility has been so placed. In the years 1932 through 1939 only limited shooting was allowed on several species. In 1935 and 1936 the season was closed entirely on some species; canvasback and redhead were on the closed list in 1936.

Limiting shooting of certain specified species may be a normal thing in the future, according to Mr. Leffler, because some species are more adversely affected by dwindling habitat than are others. Some years are good for early nesters and bad for late nesters and sometimes it is just the opposite. Some ducks try again if their nest is destroyed, others will not renest.

These traits and other eventualities mean that in future years there may be an ample supply of some species and a severe shortage of others, and hunting regulations will have to be fixed accordingly.

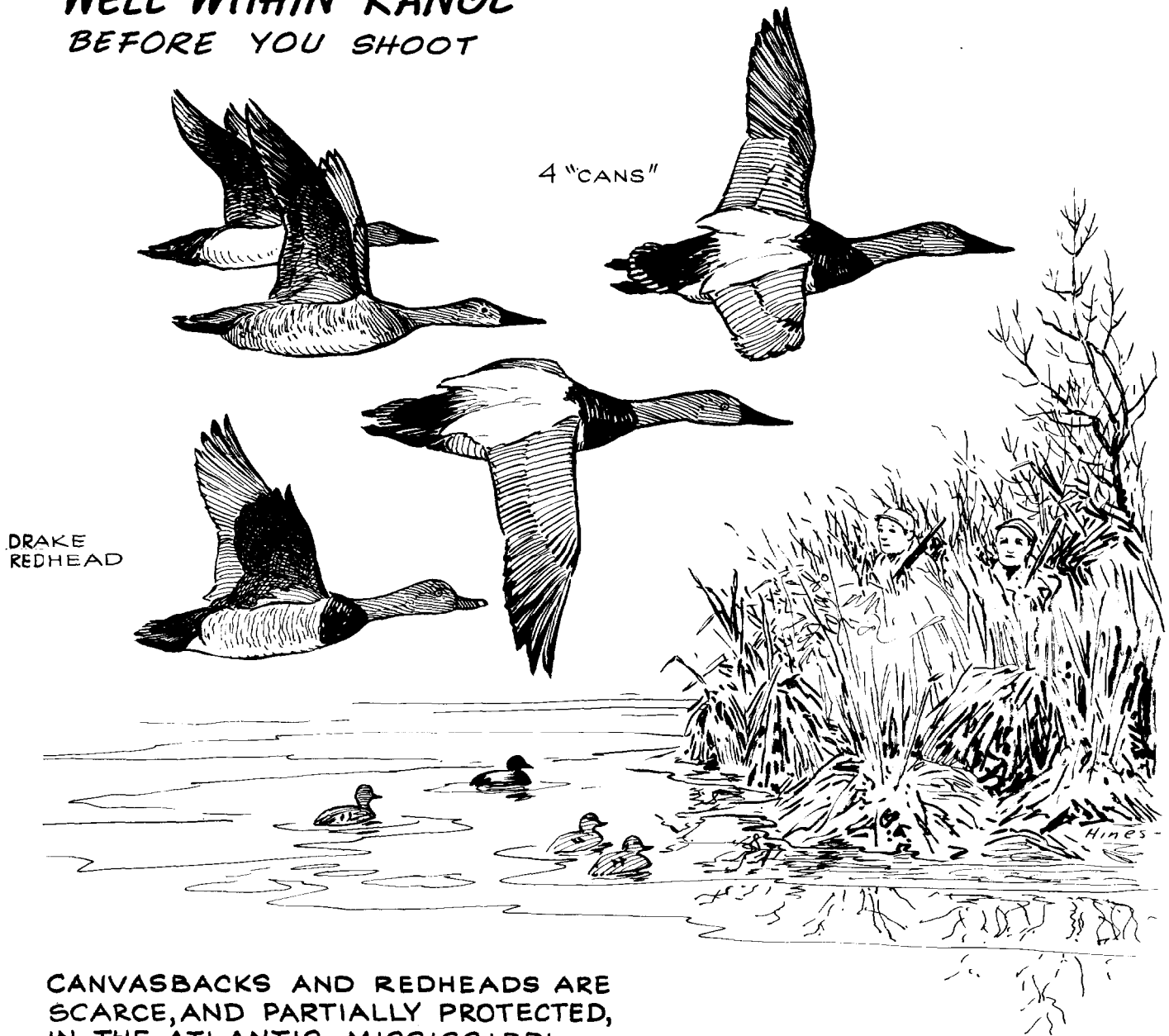
The unfavorable position of "cans" and redheads this year is due primarily to a combination of two things. First, these species are rated by the sportsman and the epicure alike as two of America's finest game birds. Hence, the hunting pressure on them is heavy. Secondly, during the past three years, conditions in the nesting areas have been particularly adverse to both species.

Studies made by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, show the heavy mortality of canvasbacks. Out of every 100 canvasbacks which are alive one fall, 71 will be dead by the next fall. Hunters will have taken 47 of them and 24 will have succumbed from other causes.

X X X

HUNTERS ARE URGED :

*BE SURE YOUR DUCKS ARE
WELL WITHIN RANGE
BEFORE YOU SHOOT*



CANVASBACKS AND REDHEADS ARE
SCARCE, AND PARTIALLY PROTECTED,
IN THE ATLANTIC, MISSISSIPPI,
AND CENTRAL FLYWAYS.

When ducks are close ~



- YOU KILL CLEAN OR MISS CLEAN
- YOU CAN BE CERTAIN ABOUT THE SPECIES
- YOU CAN PASS UP "CANS" AND REDHEADS;
SAVE THEM AS BREEDERS FOR LARGER
FLOCKS IN THE FUTURE